

Consolidation Of Cases Means Huge Savings

Savings to taxpayers of \$700,000 a month by 1962 is expected to result from consolidation of city and county functions pertaining to making runaway fathers support their families, Supervisor Ernest Debs predicted today.

The consolidation, first major step in years to eliminate expensive duplication of city and county functions, will see the District Attorney's Office assume full investigative responsibility for all runaway father cases from the cities of Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena and Santa Monica.

"Up until now," Supervisor Debs explained, "the county agency has been investigating only 40 per cent of the cases with these cities handling the rest. Even so, the District Attorney's work has saved taxpayers in excess of \$3 million the past fiscal year. District Attorney William B. McKesson and his staff are to be commended for a splendid job."

HE WENT ON to explain that as the DA's office assumes the entire investigative function, conservative estimates are that \$15 million will be saved for taxpayers by the 1964-65 fiscal year.

Supervisor Debs, chairman of the County Board of Supervisor's District Attorney's Department Committee, explained state law requires the DA to investigate all cases where aid is given needy children deserted or abandoned by parents.

"As District Attorney McKesson has repeatedly explained," said Supervisor Debs, "the investigations are not denying aid to any needy child. However, the purpose is one we can all appreciate—to make sure every parent pays the cost of caring for his own children and that this cost is not pushed off onto the taxpayer."

IN THE 1959-60 fiscal year the DA's office handled more than 24,000 cases.

Investigations attempt to locate missing parents in Los Angeles and other California counties. Before any criminal action is sought, investigators make every effort to persuade the parent to assume his obligations in caring for his children.

Contest Winners Announced by Writers' Group

Winners of Southwest Manuscripters annual Christmas contest were announced at its recent meeting, Clark Stadium, Hermosa Beach.

Anthony Garavente, South Bay teacher and resident of Manhattan Beach, was first-prize winner in the short story category. Garavente, a newcomer to the short story field, is also gathering material for a forthcoming novel.

Other winners were Don Christie, Torrance, second prize, short story; Ross Potter, Redondo Beach, first prize, article; Leona Walker, Lomita, second prize, article; Dolly Walker, Lomita, first prize, poetry; Lani Bolotin, Manhattan Beach, second prize, poetry.

THE MEETING featured a Christmas exchange of books and election of officers for the following year. New officers are Loren L. Roberts, president; Anthony Garavente, sales; Wanda Smith, hospitality; Pauline Johnston, publicity; Mary Edith Lindsay, secretary; Joseph Nelson, treasurer; and Wilma Buitelaar, program.

Ray Banks reported the inclusion of one of his short stories in an anthology "Decade of Fantasy and Science Fiction," and Ramoncita O'Connor reported a ghost-writing assignment.

MANUSCRIPT sales for the past month were Wanda Irwin's expose, "The Mail Sex," in Brunette Magazine, and Polly Booth's short story, "The Red-Headed Reject," published in German and Norwegian markets.

All those interested in writing are invited to the next Manuscripters meeting at Clark Stadium, 861 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, Jan. 20, at 8 p.m.



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